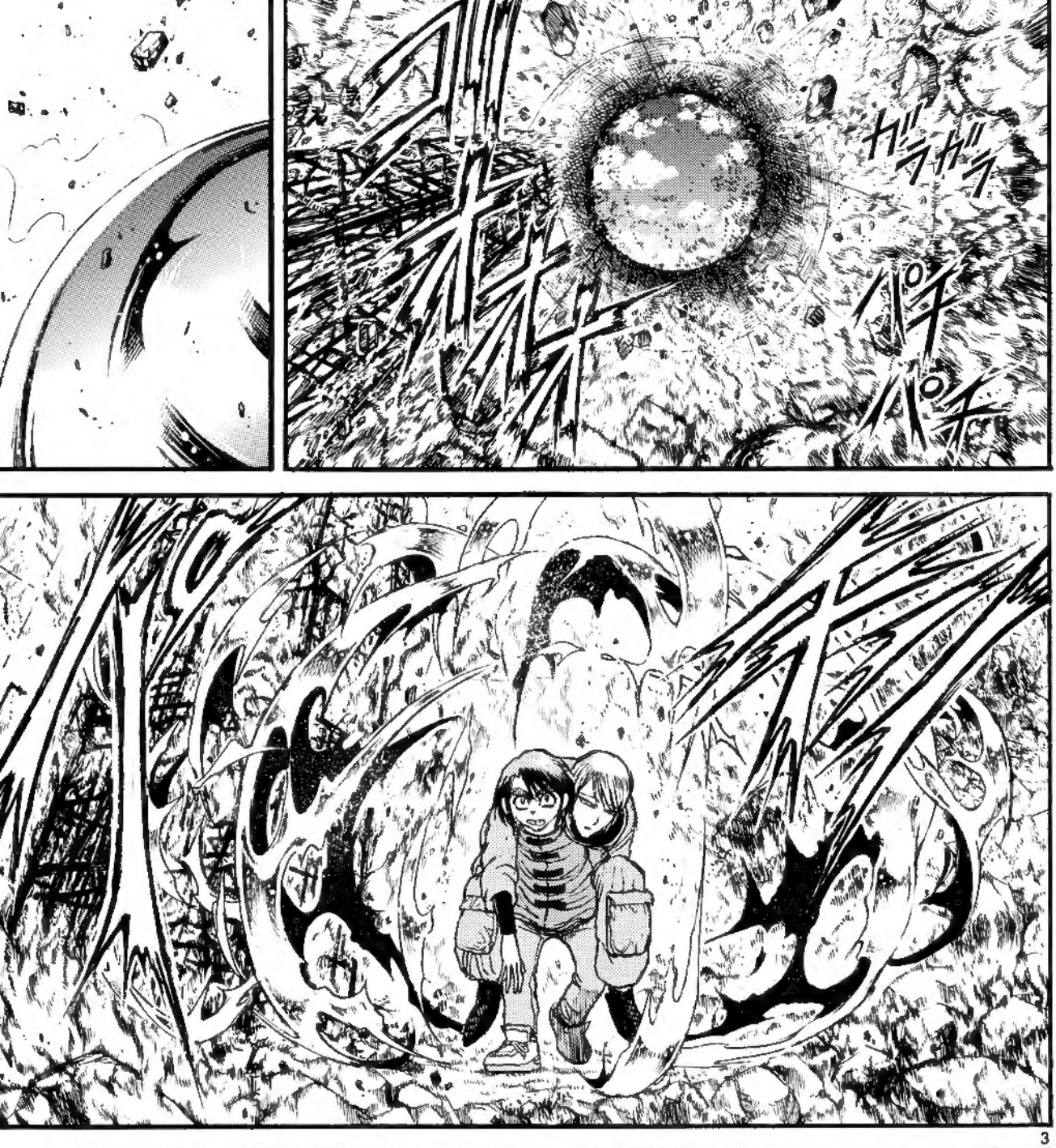
ACT 60 — THE BOY RETURNS ALONE

DAMN IT! ARE WE CLOSE TO THE EXIT, ARLECHINO?!
WE CAN'T REACH THE USUAL GATE ANYMORE.
A... A CLIFF?!
W-WHAT?!
WE'LL JUMP. USE YOUR MARIONETTE TO SUSTAIN THE SHOCK.
UWAAH!
WAIT... HOLD ON...?!



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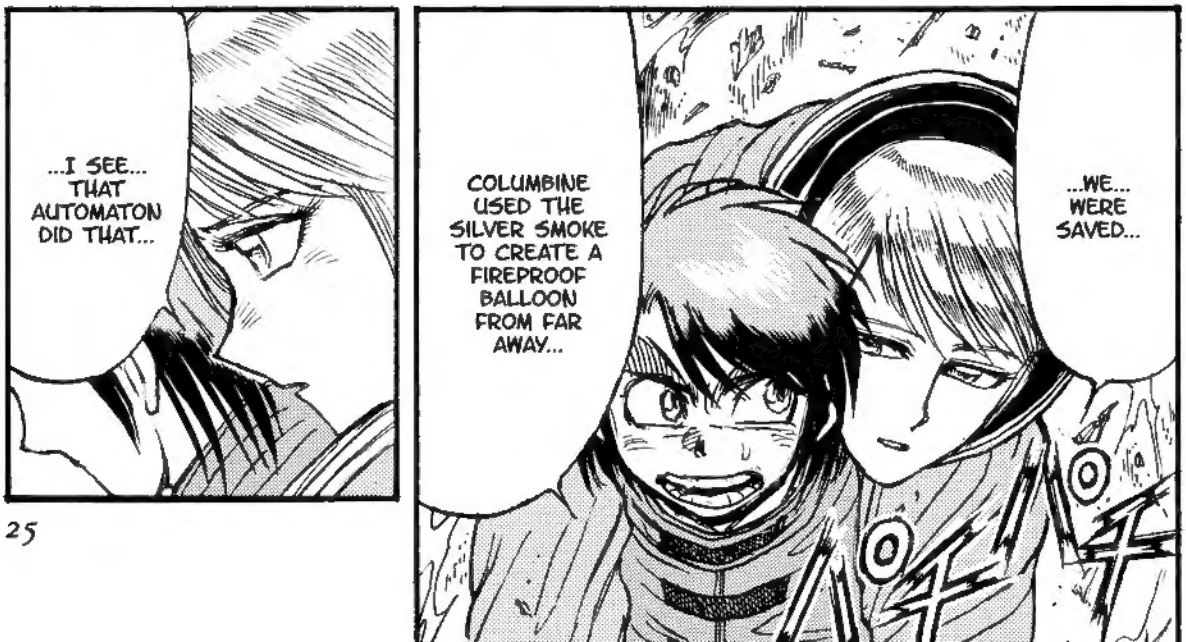
...I SEE... THAT AUTOMATON DID THAT...
COLUMBINE USED THE SILVER SMOKE TO CREATE A FIREPROOF BALLOON FROM FAR AWAY...
...WE... WERE SAVED...

HOWEVER, CAN YOU HEAL ME BACK NOW? I SEEM TO BE MAKING A SLOW RECOVERY.
AHH, WHEN THE YOUNG MASTER DISMANTLED MY JOINTS...? I'M FINE.
ANYWAYS, SHIROGANE... I'M SORRY, DID IT HURT?
YES. MY APOLOGIES FOR THAT, BE CARE-FUL.
I'LL HEAL YOU ONCE WE'RE OUT, JUST WAIT A BIT LONGER...
UGH...
IF YOU DO SO, I'LL BE ABLE TO WALK ON MY OWN.
NOT AT ALL!
I'M VERY SORRY. I MUST BE HEAVY.
UPSY-DAISY, LET'S GO!
WHAT IS IT, SHIRO-GANE...?
.....

NO WAY... I'M NOT ANY DIFFERENT FROM BEFORE...
YOU REALLY GOT STRONGER, YOUNG MASTER...
YOU'RE MUCH MORE STRONG-WILLED AND POWERFUL THAN THE YOUNG MASTER I USED TO KNOW, IN EVERY ASPECT...
SO YOU SAY, BUT I'VE WATCHED YOU BACK IN KUROGA VILLAGE, AND HERE TOO...
AND WHAT'S MORE... THE YOUNG MASTER HAS BEEN DESPERATELY FIGHTING TO PROTECT ME... I WAS COMPLETELY CLUELESS ABOUT THAT FACT...
HAHAH, I WAS JUST BEING RECK-LESS...
I WAS GREATLY SURPRISED.

YOU'RE NOT USELESS!
I WAS SUPPOSED TO PROTECT YOU, BUT YOU PROTECTED ME INSTEAD... I'M USELESS...
AH... JUST FORGET ABOUT THAT! I DID IT BECAUSE I WANTED TO.

REPAY ME...?
BUT, I...
NEVER DID IT
EXPECTING
ANYTHING
BACK...!!
I KNOW.

YEAH.
...A
CHANCE...?
YOU
GAVE ME
A CHANCE,
SHIROGANE.

A CHANCE TO REPAY
YOU FOR ALWAYS
PROTECTING ME.

SO,
SHIRO-
GANE...
IF I RECEIVE
SOMETHING,
I WANT TO
GIVE
SOMETHING
BACK IN
RETURN.

BUT I'M
STILL A
BOY.
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YOUNG...
MASTER...

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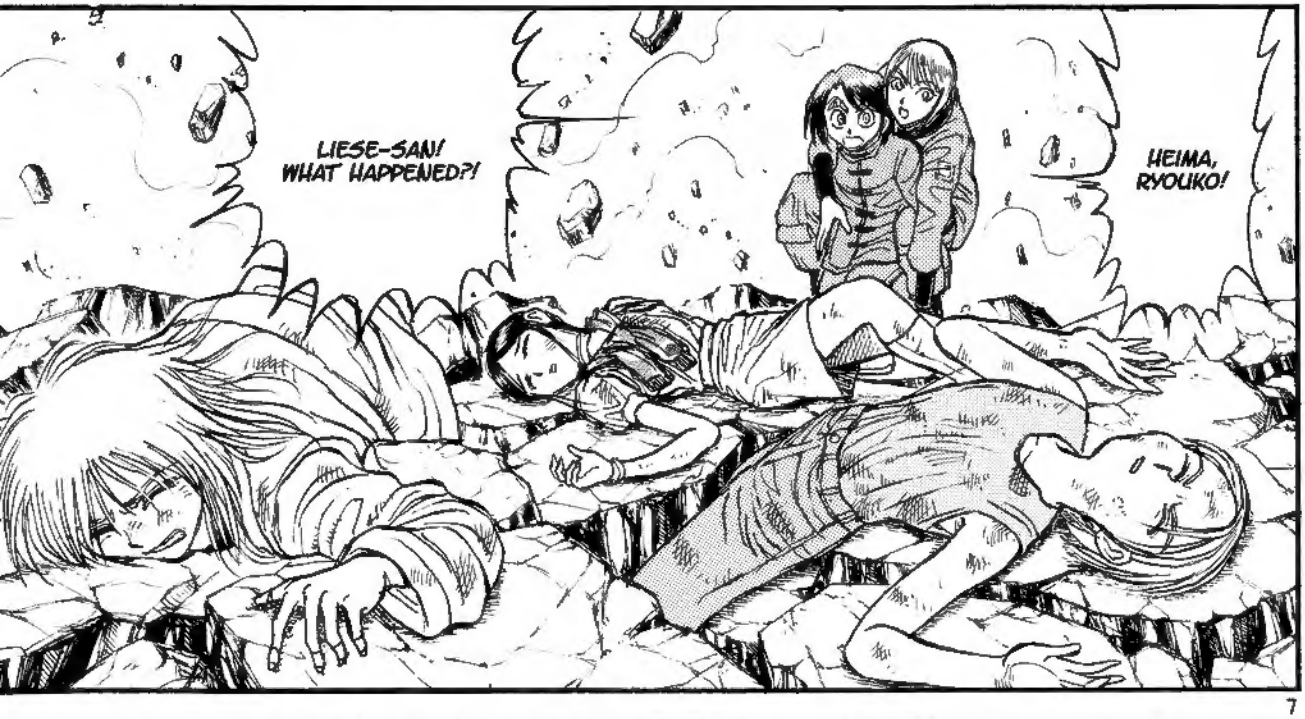
FOR
GIVING
ME THAT
CHANCE.
THANK
YOU,



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ARLE-CHINO...
OUCH... AH, MASTER!
GET AWAY, GRIPPON-KUN, HE'S AN AUTOMATON!

SORRY FOR TRICKING YOU, GRIPPON-KUN...

MASTER IS BACK TO HIMSELF...

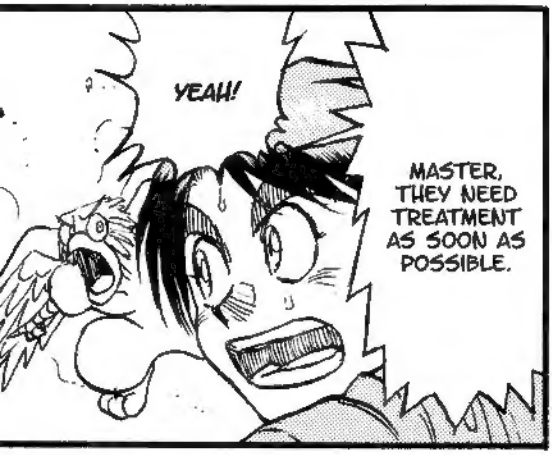
YOU GOT IT WRONG, HE'S OUR ALLY NOW!
HUH...?

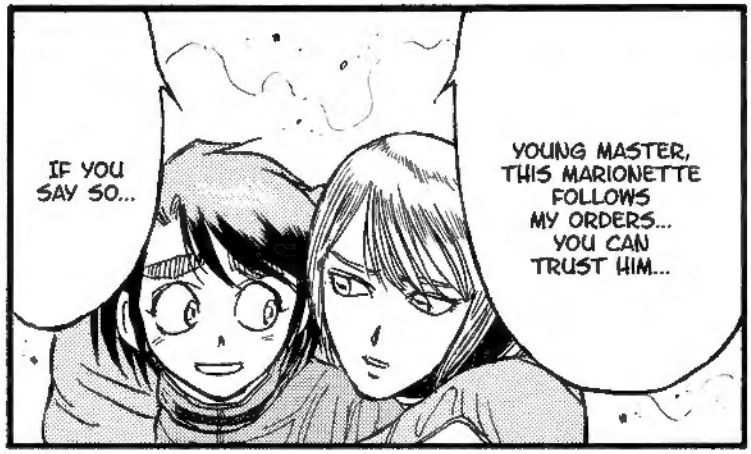
IN THE EXPLOSION THAT JUST HAPPENED... HE PROTECTED US...

WAHN, I WAS SO WORRIED!
...LADY ELEONORE.
す
WHAT DID YOU DO TO THOSE CHILDREN?

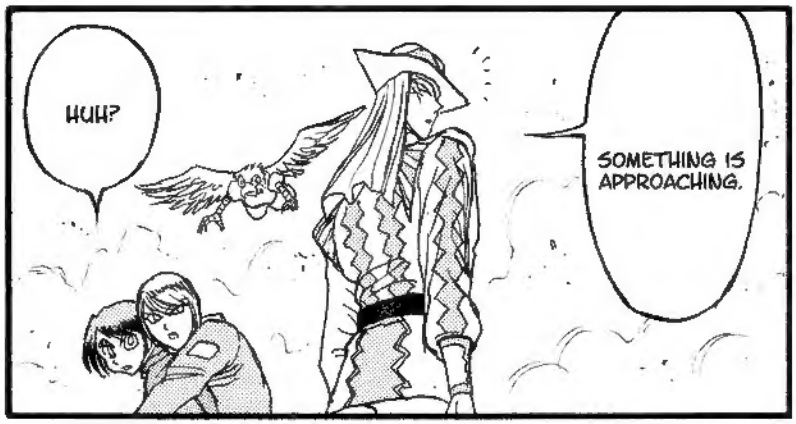
YES...
AS YOU COMMANDED, I DID MY BEST SO THAT THESE HUMANS WOULD NOT GET HURT, BUT...
I'M SORRY FOR WHAT HAPPENED HERE...

EVEN SHIROGANE IS HERE...
SHIRO-GANE?
ARLECHINO, IS THAT TRUE?


YEAH!
MASTER, THEY NEED TREATMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.


IF YOU SAY SO...
YOUNG MASTER, THIS MARIONETTE FOLLOWS MY ORDERS... YOU CAN TRUST HIM...

IT'S SOME WEIRD VEHICLE.
AN ENEMY ...?
THAT'S THE LONG-LEGGED CLOWN EXPRESS...
THE ONE RIDING IT...


HUH?
SOMETHING IS APPROACHING.

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REALLY?
...SEEMS TO BE ONE OF YOUR ALLIES.
BUT IT'S SO FAR... THEY WON'T NOTICE US.

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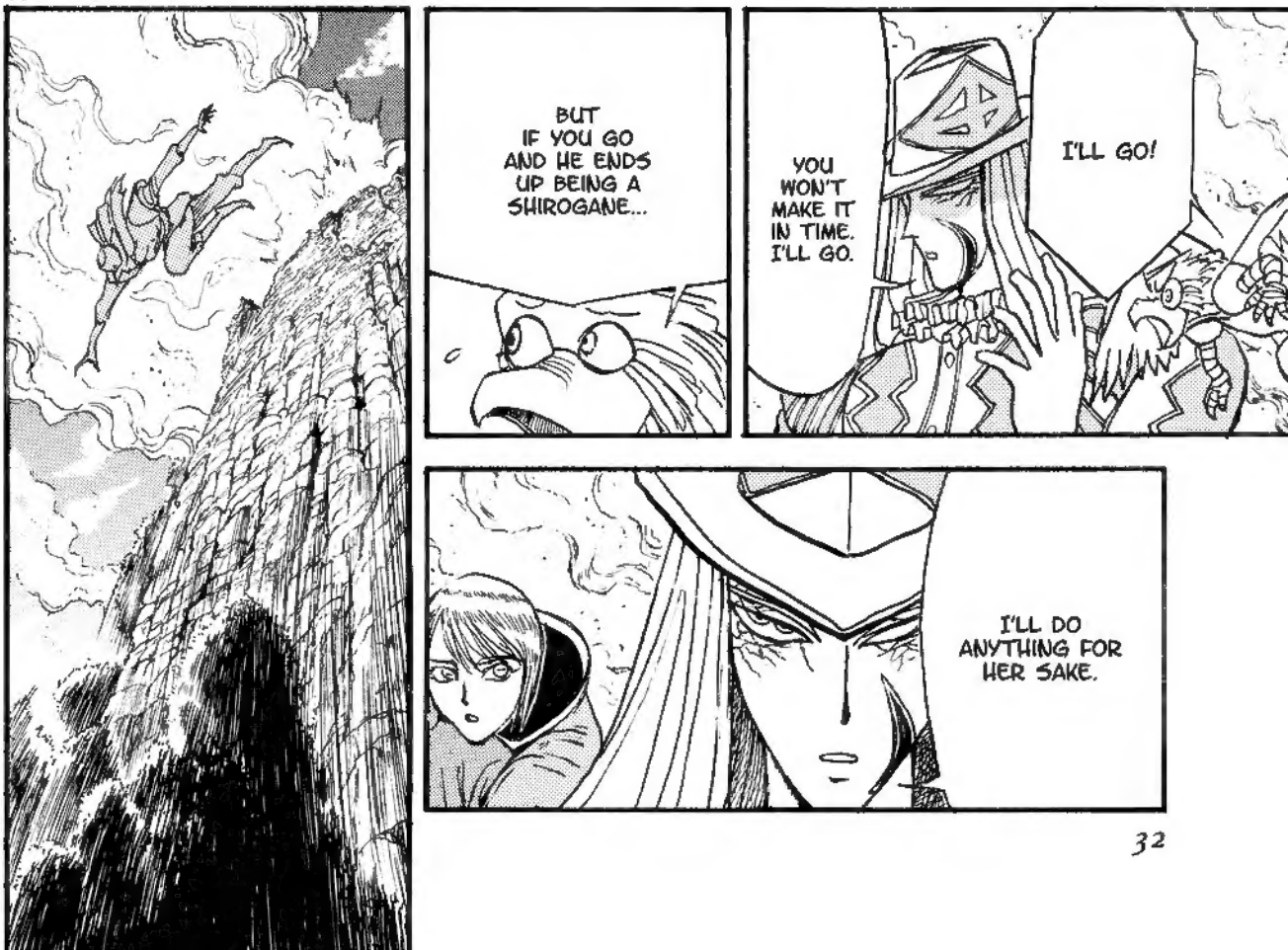

BUT IF YOU GO AND HE ENDS UP BEING A SHIROGANE...
YOU WON'T MAKE IT IN TIME. I'LL GO.
I'LL GO!
I'LL DO ANYTHING FOR HER SAKE.

ARLE-
CHINO!
SO
YOU'RE
STILL
ALIVE!!

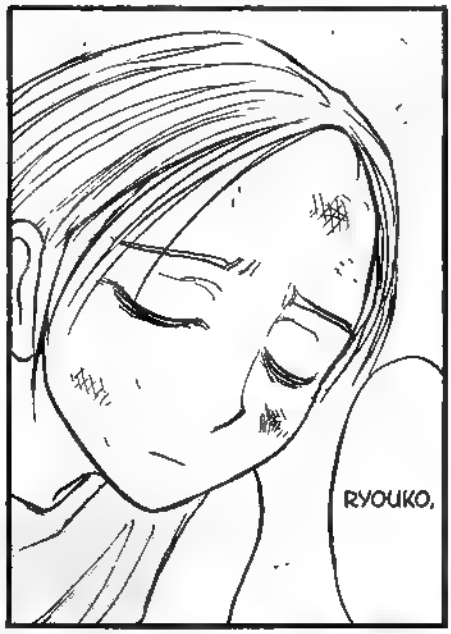
WHERE'S
ELEONORE
!?

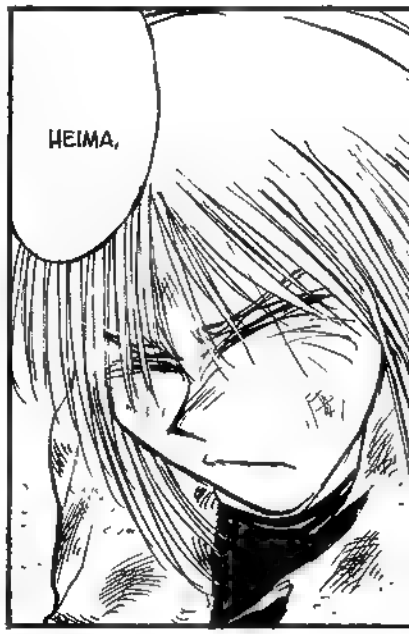
WHAT?
LADY ELEONORE IS OVER THERE.

WHY AREN'T YOU... ATTACK-ING ME BACK?

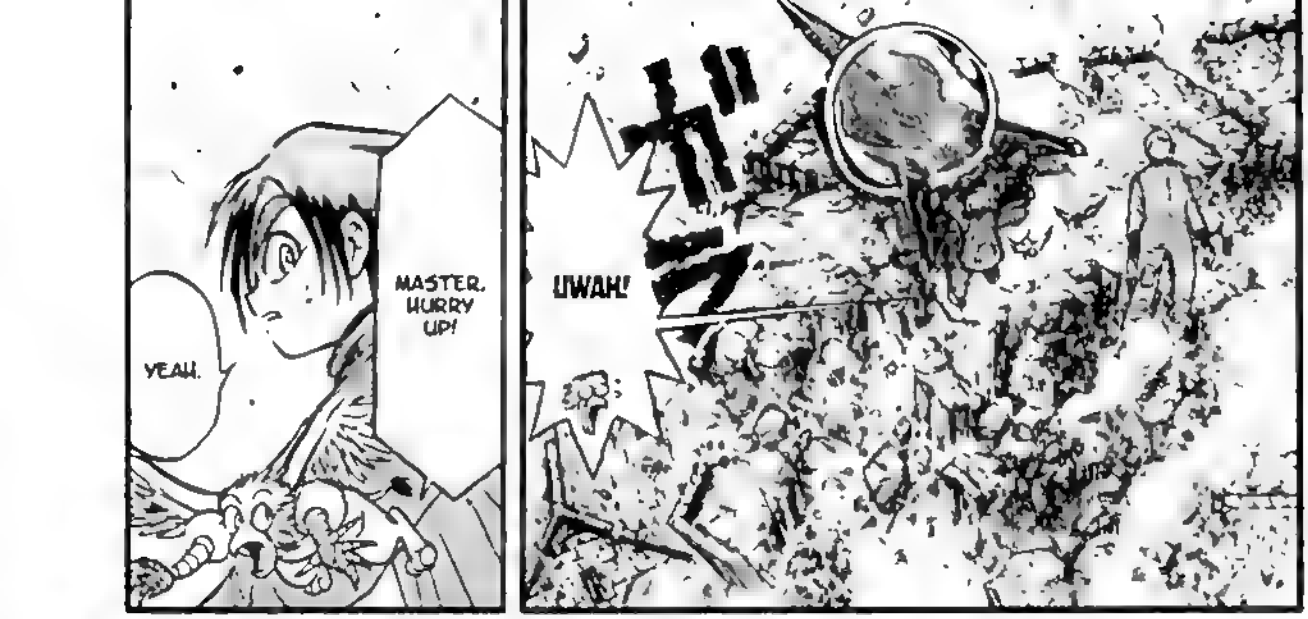
TAKE THEM BACK WITH YOU.
THERE ARE SOME HUMAN CHILDREN AS WELL.

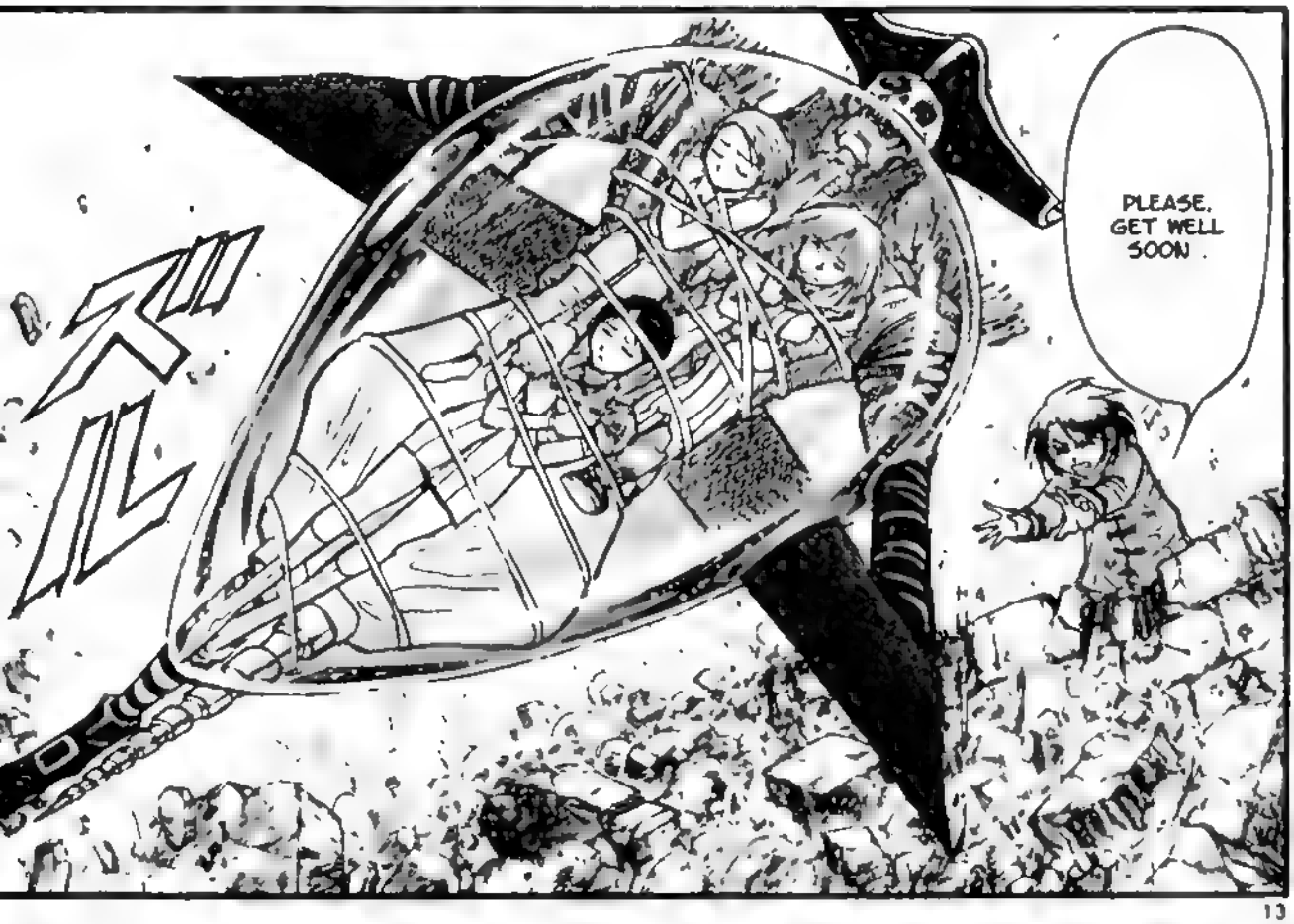
LIESE-SAN...

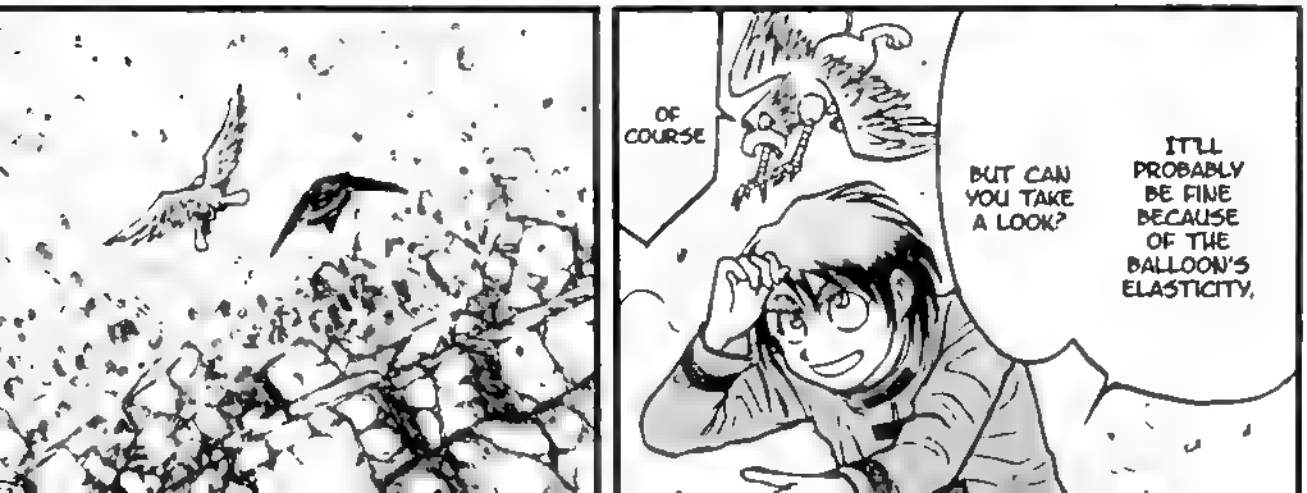

RYOUKO,


HEIMA,

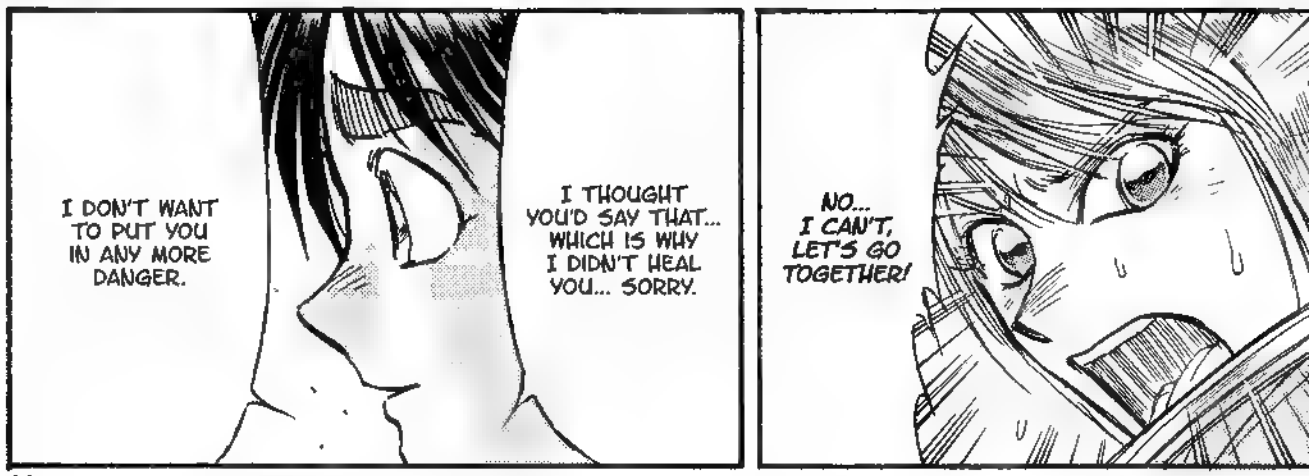
I COULDN'T HAVE SAVED SHIROGANE WITHOUT YOU HERE...
...THANK YOU.


MASTER, HURRY UP!
YEAH.
UWAH!

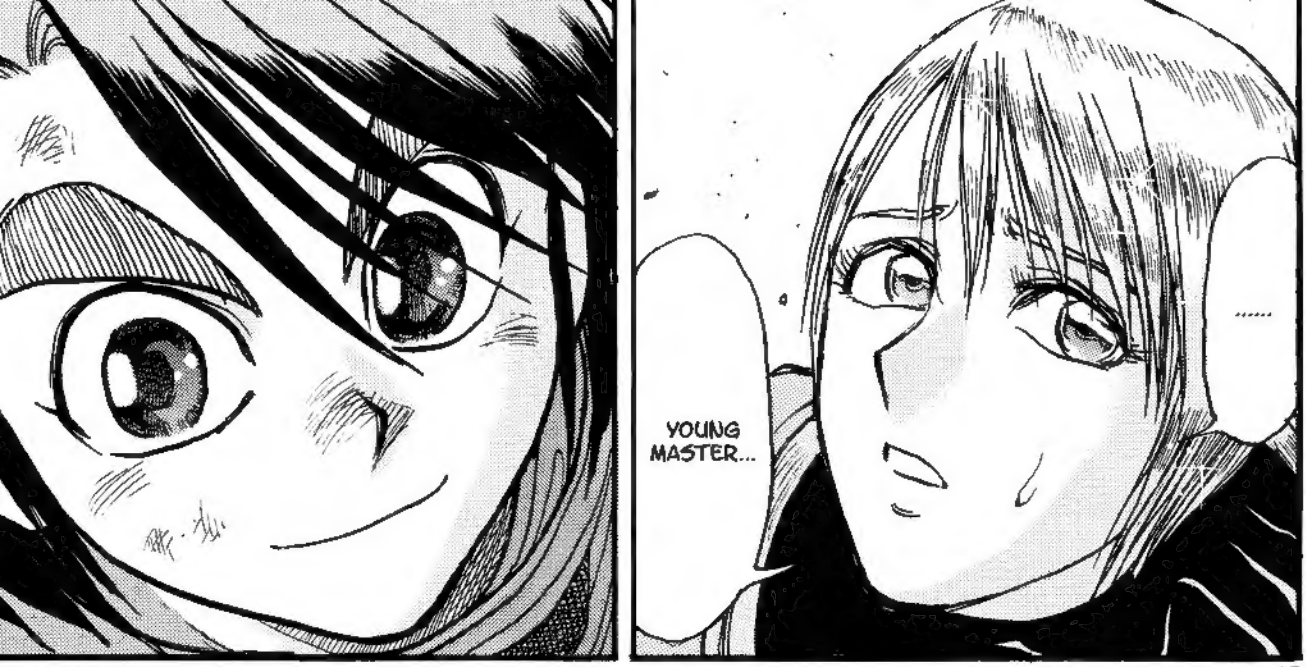

PLEASE, GET WELL SOON.


OF COURSE
BUT CAN YOU TAKE A LOOK?
IT'LL PROBABLY BE FINE BECAUSE OF THE BALLOON'S ELASTICITY.

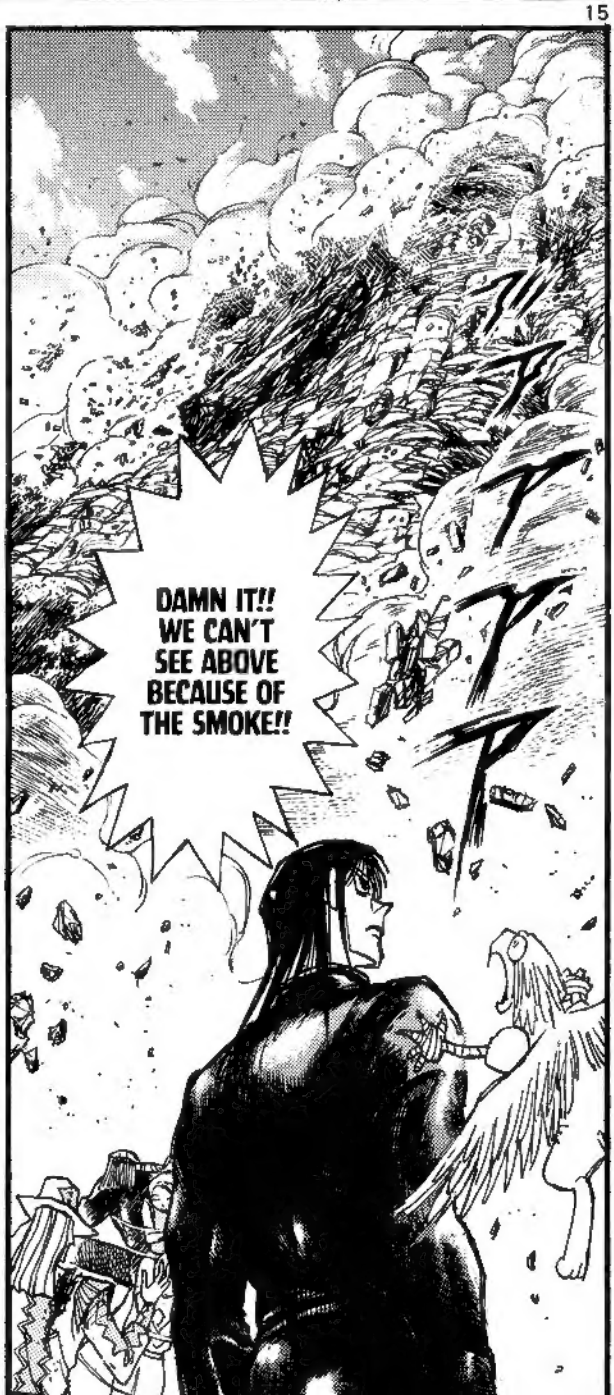
ゴオオオ
SO GO AHEAD AND WAIT FOR ME...
HUH?
SHIROGANE... I'M STRONG NOW, RIGHT...?
YOUNG MASTER... ONCE YOU HEAL ME...
...SHIROGANE WILL HOLD YOU SO WE CAN JUMP DOWN. THIS HEIGHT SHOULD BE FINE.
...


I DON'T WANT TO PUT YOU IN ANY MORE DANGER.
I THOUGHT YOU'D SAY THAT... WHICH IS WHY I DIDN'T HEAL YOU... SORRY.
NO... I CAN'T, LET'S GO TOGETHER!

I'LL GO GET HER, AND I'LL MAKE SURE TO CATCH UP TO YOU LATER ON.
SMILES
COLUMBINE IS STILL HERE...
YOUNG MASTER, WHY...?!


YOUNG MASTER...
.....

WHERE ARE MASTER AND SHIRO-GANE...?


DAMN IT!! WE CAN'T SEE ABOVE BECAUSE OF THE SMOKE!!

SORRY SHIROGANE. THIS WILL BE ROUGH...
BUT I CAN FEEL IT...
THE PERSON BELOW WILL DEFINITELY CATCH YOU!

YOUNG MASTER... TAKE CARE...
YEAH, YOU TOO, SHIRO-GANE...

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GOOD...
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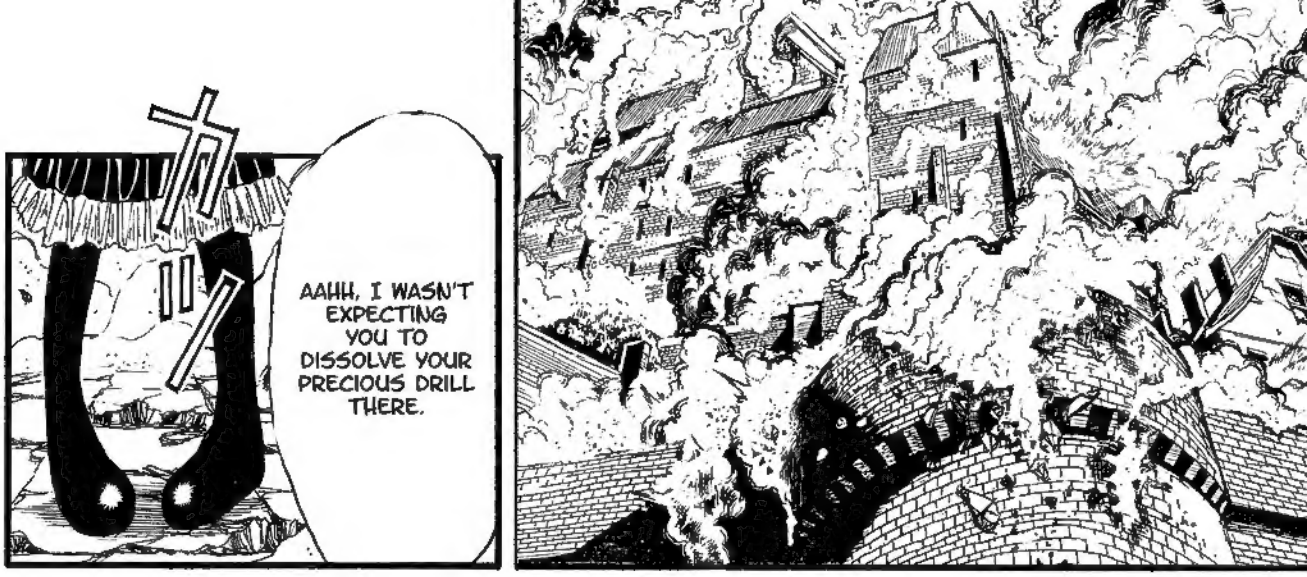
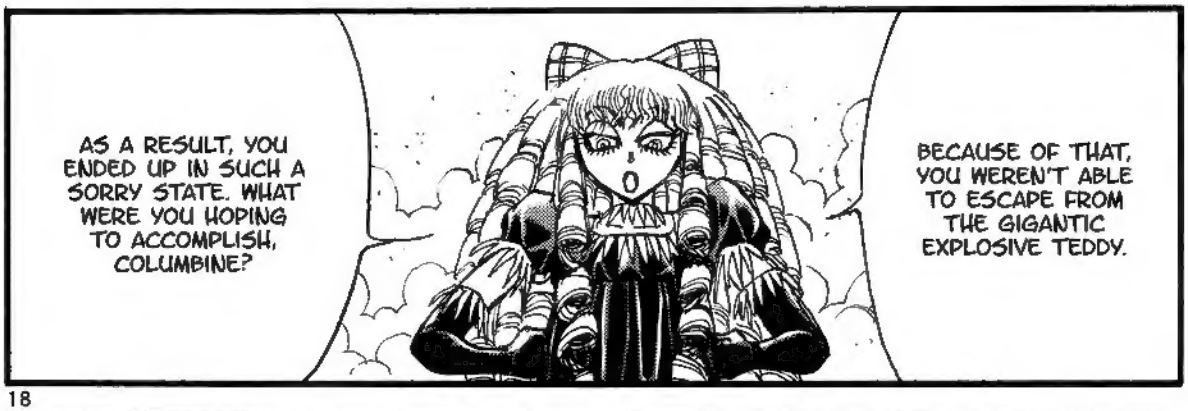

AAHH, I WASN'T EXPECTING YOU TO DISSOLVE YOUR PRECIOUS DRILL THERE.


AS A RESULT, YOU ENDED UP IN SUCH A SORRY STATE. WHAT WERE YOU HOPING TO ACCOMPLISH, COLUMBINE?
BECAUSE OF THAT, YOU WEREN'T ABLE TO ESCAPE FROM THE GIGANTIC EXPLOSIVE TEDDY.

...TELLING YOU...
I'M NOT...